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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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6. Because all foreign trade is centralized in Belgrade, great discontent exists in Slovenia and Croatia. Top Party officials in Slovenia and the Ministry of Foreign Trade in that republic severely criticize the work of the Yugoslav Government. The republics apparently conceal various financial and business transactions from Belgrade. It is clear that each republic seeks economic independence, and each also aspires to political independence. In this sense, the internal situation in Yugoslavia is more critical than it was before the war.
7. Yugoslav commercial affairs are inevitably intermingled with politics. There is no true desire on the part of the regime to export merchandise to foreign countries, but rather a predominant anxiety to better the precarious financial situation. All exports currently are slated to go to countries to which Yugoslavia is indebted, or to countries which are making loans or will make them. The Republic of Croatia, for example, has to export all its wood to Great Britain although other markets offer better prices. The same practice is applied to other merchandise for export.

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